

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of communicating message data between a  
2 plurality of subsystems which are distributed across a data  
3 communications network, the method comprising:

4 coupling the distributed subsystems together through a  
5 coupling means with a shared memory;

6 providing at least one shared queue in the shared  
7 memory;

8 providing access to the shared queue from each of the  
9 coupled subsystems; and

10 communicating message data between the distributed  
11 subsystems by means of the shared queue.

12 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality  
13 of subsystems is a distributed network of resource managers.

14 3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality  
15 of subsystems are all part of a sysplex.

16 4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one  
17 application program is connected to a subsystem, and wherein  
18 the subsystem manages the message data for the at least one  
19 application program.

1 5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling  
2 means is a coupling facility with data structures for the at  
3 least one shared queue and a database.

1 6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the database  
2 stores queue definitions for the at least one shared queue.

1 7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least  
2 one shared queue includes a shared transmission queue.

1 8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each subsystem  
2 has a long running process to check the at least one shared  
3 queue for message data for that subsystem.

1 9. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subsystems  
2 also have local non-shared queues.

1 10. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein message data is  
2 sent from a first subsystem to a second subsystem by the  
3 first subsystem putting a message on a shared queue and the  
4 second subsystem getting the message from the shared queue.

1 11. An apparatus for communicating message data,  
2 comprising:

3 a plurality of subsystems distributed across a data  
4 communications network;

5 a coupling means with a shared memory the shared memory  
6 having at least one shared queue;

7 means associated with each subsystem for accessing the  
8 at least one shared queue; and wherein

9 message data is communicated between the distributed  
10 subsystems by means of the shared queue.

1 12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the  
2 plurality of subsystems is a distributed network of resource  
3 managers.

4 13. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the  
5 plurality of subsystems are all part of a sysplex.

6 14. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least  
7 one application program is connected to a subsystem, and  
8 wherein the subsystem manages the message data for the at  
9 least one application program.

1 15. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the  
2 coupling means is a coupling facility with data structures  
3 for the at least one shared queue and a database.

1 16. An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the  
2 database stores the queue definitions for the at least one  
3 shared queue.

1 17. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the at  
2 least one shared queue includes a shared transmission queue.

1 18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein each  
2 subsystem has a long running process to check the at least  
3 one shared queue for message data for that subsystem.

1 19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the  
2 subsystems also have local non-shared queues.

1 20. A computer program comprising computer readable program  
2 code for performing the steps of:

3 providing at least one shared queue in a shared memory;  
4 providing access to the shared queue from each of a  
5 plurality of subsystems coupled to the shared memory wherein  
6 said subsystems are distributed across a data communications  
7 network; and  
8 communicating data between the distributed subsystems  
9 by means of the shared queue.

1 21. An apparatus for communicating message data within a  
2 distributed data communications network, the apparatus  
3 including a resource manager for receiving messages from  
4 input message queues and forwarding the messages to  
5 destination message queues, the resource manager including:

6 a coupling facility manager component providing  
7 connection services for the resource manager to connect to a  
8 coupling facility list structure to perform operations on  
9 list structure entries including connect;

10 a message retrieval agent for accessing at least one  
11 shared queue in shared memory associated with the coupling  
12 facility;

13 wherein the message retrieval agent enables the  
14 resource manager to access messages directly from the shared  
15 queue of a connected coupling facility.

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